

### After Dinner.

A gentleman has a dog—a pointer. He ran up the steps of a house, did this canine, and refused to come down. This master followed and found A. Partridge on the door-plate. This illustrates the force of instinct.

A gentleman friend has two canaries, and has named them "Wheeler" and "Willson." He reasons for this appellation is that neither of them is a "Singer."

One of the hardest working men in Danbury earns his bread by the sweat of other people's brows. He makes sweat leather for hats.

A Western moralist thinks that the two great evils of the present day are "intoxication and costly funerals."

A schoolmaster undertook to make compulsory poetry of his scholars, and was obliged to listen to this effusion of one of them:

Oh helpful Jove! Lend us thine aid  
To help our wretched scholars;  
We've hired a fool to teach this school  
And pay him fifty dollars.

### Agricultural.

**PLANTING EVERGREENS.**

Members Douglas, of Waukegan, Wis., write as follows about planting pines and spruces:

"The Scotch pine is the most rapid grower of all our hardy evergreens—very valuable for forest planting. It is also valuable for planting in poor soil where other evergreens will not flourish, and makes an excellent wind-break for sheltering orchards, buildings, etc."

The Norway spruce is so well known as being the best evergreen for ornamental purposes that it is only necessary for us to say that it is also valuable for hedges, belts, screens, and for timber.

**THE AUSTRIAN PINE.**

The Black Pine of Austria was introduced into Great Britain in 1835, and is in this country a few years later, and is deservedly a favorite in ornamental grounds. It is very hardy, symmetrical and compact, presenting a dense mass of rich, dark green foliage in winter. It is also becoming a favorite for forest planting. Grigor says: "It is of robust growth, particularly in soft soil of any quality. It carries a breadth along with its upward growth, which adapts it for exposed ground. In its native country it sometimes attains the height of 100 feet, and its timber is strong and resinous."

Mountain Pine (*Pinus Montana*) is a beautiful little tree, or bush; foliage very dense, and of rich dark green; valuable for ornamental purposes. It is perfectly hardy in the most exposed situations. It can be used with good effect to cover barren and unsightly bluffs, sandy knolls, railroad cuts, etc.

The European or Tyrolean Larch (*Larix Europaea*) of De Candolle, is undoubtedly the most valuable tree for extensive planting, combining the durability of the red cedar with rapidity of growth, erectness, hardiness, freedom from disease, and adaptability to almost every variety of soil. It has proved more profitable in Great Britain than any other timber tree, and is now planted more extensively than all others combined.

Arthur Bryant, Jr., Princeton, Ill., and A. R. Whitney, Franklin, Grove, Ill., have European larch twelve to fifteen years planted, standing in nursery rows, and adjoining American larch trees that they have far outstripped both in height and breadth.

Two trees on our grounds, eighteen years planted, each measures 48 inches in circumference one foot from the ground. One tree, twelve years from seed, transplanted at one year old measures 37 inches; and one in its eighth year from seed, accidentally left in seed-bed, measures 19 inches in circumference at one foot from the ground.

Trees upon the ground of E. X. Lewis, Richmond, Ind., and John C. Toss, Raville, Ind., 10 years planted, are 30 feet and upward in height, and 10 to 12 inches in diameter.

Fifteen European larches, two feet high, were planted by the Harrisons, at Minneapolis, Minn. In the Spring of 1872 they stood about 30 feet high, the largest one measuring 34 inches in circumference one foot above the ground. We noticed a European larch in a thickly settled part of the city of Milwaukee, Wis., that is of larger growth than any we have ever seen in Illinois.

**VALUE OF TIMBER.**

As an illustration of the increasing value of walnut lumber, the Indianapolis Journal notes that the standing walnut trees on a half-section of land on Eel River, in Miami County, Ind., were recently sold to a lumber dealer for \$17,000. There is a large amount of other timber on the tract which is not included, only the walnut timber being sold. Walnut lumber is coming more and more into use throughout this country and Europe, and at present a very large business is done in preparing and shipping it from Indiana.

**THE PRODUCE OF TWO ACRES.**

A Maine farmer raised last season 1,254 bushels (sixty pounds) of apples on two acres of land. The land was plowed in November, 1873. Twelve cords of manure were drawn on it in winter and early Spring. It was harrowed several times. The seed was drilled in rows 28 inches apart. Plaster was applied to the plants and they were thinned to six inches apart. They were cultivated two or three times with horse hoe, and with hand hoe as needed.

**TO REMOVE ANTS.**

The following is a very simple means of removing ants, particularly when they are found in houses: Cook a quantity of prunes, making a strong decoction; pour the juice into a vessel, and place it where the ants are; the insects, attracted by the juice, fall into the vessel and are drowned; repeat the operation until all are removed. When trees are attacked by ants, use the same remedy; put vessels containing the juice of the prunes at the root of the trees, and the best results are obtained. To prevent the best from coming the juice whose odor attracts the ants, keep the vessels in the shade or set them out after sunset.

**STICKING PEAS.**

A correspondent of the London Field makes a suggestion as to sticking peas which is worthy of trial. He thinks that "to those who have to procure stakes at a great cost the following method will prove advantageous, being very cheap, simple, and easily performed. A few rough stakes should be obtained and driven into the ground on either side of the row, about wire fast apart. These stakes should be a corresponding height to that of the

peas, and when the required number for a row is inserted, some wire or other strong cord may be tied to the end stake, and passed along the line of stakes, making a turn on each within a few inches of the ground, and as growth progresses, raise the next turn a little higher, advance in succession until the plants attain their full height. These lines being run on at the right time, the tendrils of the peas will clasp firmly round them and support the plants quite equal to the well-known plan of sticking. Some imagine an advantage to be obtained in this way of training, as the lines get a better circulation of air, and pods can be gathered at all times without injuring the plants."

### Desultory

**THE NOSE.**

As a feature of the face, more than any other, changes its character, although not so capable of expression as the eyes and mouth. Its ideal beauty varies with different races. The Africans of Sierra Leone prize the flat nose, and the Egyptian notes on the veritable, pure and unadorned pug. The Tartar race, having very small noses, consider them the very highest type of beauty. The most beautiful woman in all Turkey was considered so because she had only two holes where the nose ought to have been. There seems to be no universal standard of nasal beauty. The Romans adored the aquiline, the Greek the straight line, the latter, coming nearest our idea of the beautiful, is accepted as the standard in this latitude.

But there are other uses for the nose beyond its element of beauty or the reverse. The sense of smell is popularly supposed to be the only service it is called upon to perform—at least, we should judge so from the number of open mouths we meet, sailing along the streets. One of the main objects of the nostrils is for respiratory purposes. There is very little doubt that air passing through the nostrils is refined, purified and eliminated of all injurious gases, infection and dust, before being permitted access to the lungs. It is very easy to see how habitual respiration through the mouth is not only unnatural but productive of disease. More especially at night we should accustom ourselves to sleep with the mouth closed. All the energies of the system are then at rest, and its power of resistance at the lowest ebb. If the mouth be open, the enemy is allowed to enter and we may be sure he fastens upon the most delicate part of our organization.

In a recent lecture by Prof. Tyndall, he demonstrates fully the danger of sleeping with the mouth open, a practice unknown to the lower animals. He says: "If I were to endeavor to bequeath the most important motto which a human language can convey it should be these words: 'Shut your mouth!'"

"In the social transactions of life this might justly be termed the golden rule, the most friendly cautionary advice, or be observed as the greatest of insults, where I would print and engrave it—in every nursery and on every bed post in the universe—its meaning would not be mistaken; and, if obeyed, its importance would soon be realized."

**SABBATH-KEEPING ANECDOTE.**

The late Rev. David Nelson, was seeking a place to establish a manual labor school in the northern part of Missouri. After arriving at St. Louis, he took the cars for St. Charles, and on Saturday the Doctor saw several cabins near, and called to the driver to halt.

"What do you wish?" said the driver.

"I wish to get out," said Nelson.

"I thought you were going to Palmyra," said the driver.

"No, I am on Monday," said Nelson.

"On Monday?" said the driver. "There will be no stage till Saturday night, and they will all be full these six weeks. You go now or you don't go at all."

Several gentlemen in the stage urged the Doctor to proceed, saying he would arrive at quite a village by Sunday noon, and in the afternoon he could preach to a large congregation.

Said the Doctor: "Gentlemen, the Lord knew all about the difficulty of stages in Missouri when he made the land; and He did not tell us, when there is no other stage you may travel half of the day, and then stop and preach for two hours, and us not to travel, and I intend to obey Him. It is his word about stages, and not mine."

The Doctor entered a cabin and stated who he was. He then enquired if there was any place where he could preach the next day.

"There is a school house near by," said the lady, "and we shall be very glad to have preaching, for we don't often have a chance to hear it."

Said a boy, mounted on a horse was ready to obey the news of the meeting. The Doctor said to him, "spread the notice as far as you can, and tell every one you meet that Dr. Nelson, of Kentucky, will preach on Sunday at the school-house to-morrow, at 11 o'clock."

The doctor was well known in all that section of country, hence a comparatively large congregation would be present. Among his hearers was a rich farmer, who visited the Doctor's house with him, and the Doctor pressed him hard on the subject of religion till about twelve P. M. then retired to rest. In the morning the gentleman asked the Doctor where he was going and being informed he inquired how he was travelling. The Doctor replied, "I was travelling by stage; but I am travelling for the Lord and He told me not to travel on Sunday, consequently I stopped, and the stage was owned by the devil's servants, and they have gone on with it, and I am waiting for the Lord to provide another mode of conveyance, and I expect He will send me on to-day, but I don't know how."

Soon a fine horse, saddled and bridled, was at the door, and the gentleman said, "Doctor, take that horse and ride him as far as you please, and when you are done with him return him, if convenient; if not, you are welcome to him." The gentleman accompanied the Doctor, ten or twelve miles, saying him fifteen or twenty miles travel by putting him on a shorter route.

**SABBATH REST.**—In Switzerland there is a "Society for the Observance of the Rest of Sunday," which was offered a prize of \$200 for the best essay on the subject of resting upon Sabbath, considered in a hygienic point of view. The points required to be especially discussed were—1. The favorable effects of rest on Sunday on people of various ages, and their influence on the families and the nation. 2. Diseases which may be prevented or cured by continuous work in persons who by the nature of their calling are deprived of this weekly recreation, as, for instance, railroad employes, journalists, telegraph operators, bakers, etc. 3. Practical results drawn from the observation of cited facts. The essays must be written in French or German, and sent in, before September 30th next, to the President of the above-named society, at Geneva, Switzerland.

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